



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

64 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2013

Volume 64 Number 8

www.phil-mont.org

August 2013

PMRC Welcomes our Newest Members –

Leander Adams Jr “Lee” KB3YFG

Norman Dyner “Norm” W3RZY

Reuven Z Gevaryahu KB3EHW

Ham Camp

in Sunbury the Weekend of August 17 – 18
Fred & Penny Need a Head Count for Food so
Contact Them Soon if you Want to Eat!

Full info on page 6

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (14) KB3SJS(14) KB3MIV(14) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) K3GBA(13) W3AOK(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coar: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**

Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com

Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com

Sec: ND3B Rick Devirgiliis nd3b@arrl.net

Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net

Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...

Well I know we say this every year but where did the summer go? The temperature this summer was sure brutal and I know all the electric companies made plenty of money. I hope the weather holds out this month not only for my well needed vacation but for the other activities like Ham Camp on the 16th - if you haven't made your reservations yet better get on it. I'm sorry I won't be around to be there but if there's a way I'm going to try to pop up just for a few hours. Seems that hurricane Sandy still has a repercussive presence here at the shore: not only are all the harbors and back bays changed but fishing is totally confused from the water temp being so crazy warming up the cooling down. Sure hope it all levels out for the end of the month.

September will be here before you know it and it will be back to business as normal. Don't forget to think about volunteering for the MS 150, a good event for a good cause, and if you hurry you get to stay overnight in Ocean City for free. Also don't forget to stop on by to Phil-Monts Tuesday evening digital net at 7pm on the repeater hosted by Al W3STW and Barry K3EUI.

Well that's it for now stay cool and have fun, talk to you all soon.

73 Bob, KB2ERL

Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

01 Ralph Germanotta – K3FXR
 02 Tom Bohlander - WA3KLR

05 Fred Uebelhoer - KA3IRJ
 09 Carolyn Popovic - KA3VLJ

14 Patricia MacKenzie (XYL W3RED)

18 Norma Coupe (XYL WA3BXH)
 19 Donna Lynn Larkin - WA1WYQ
 (XYL KA2FFP)

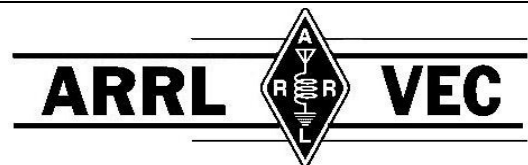
20 Keiko Simon – KB3SJT
 23 Ray Kiesel - K3RIZ

27 James Lamont-N3SHM
 30 Vincent Buono - WA3ADI

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

83 Full paid members
 10 Family members
 2 Youth members
 1 Honorary member



***The Thursday evening session is on the
 22nd this month.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary...

There were no meetings in July

de Rick, ND3B

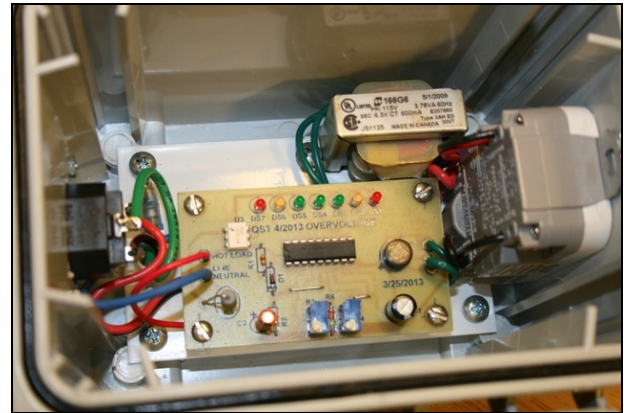
Building a Consensus - Part 2

de Fred KA3IRJ

I was waiting on the green center LEDs for quite a while, however before they arrived testing was accomplished. You can't always play by the rules when homebrewing and the circuit works just fine without them. I had other green LEDs on hand, however the power dissipation is somewhat critical because when all are lit the total current approaches the upper operating limits of the LM3914N display driver that forms the heart of the circuit.

Now here's the part where the eyes of the casual reader glaze over, so all you non-geeks out there turn away or skip to the last paragraph now. Be forewarned, the dreaded circuit description begins here. I will keep it brief.

Jerry's is a clever design, using a standard GFI outlet in the role of a high current relay to drop the load when the voltage input reaches 130V. Most GFIs trip when they detect a current imbalance of 4-6 mA between the legs of the service on the load side, so it does not take much to bias them if we want to trigger a trip for other purposes. This circuit accomplishes this via the aforementioned display driver which turns on the series of (7) LED's in proportion to an analog input signal.



Two trimmer pots and some resistors are used to provide voltages compatible with inputs of the driver, and to provide a way to calibrate the device.

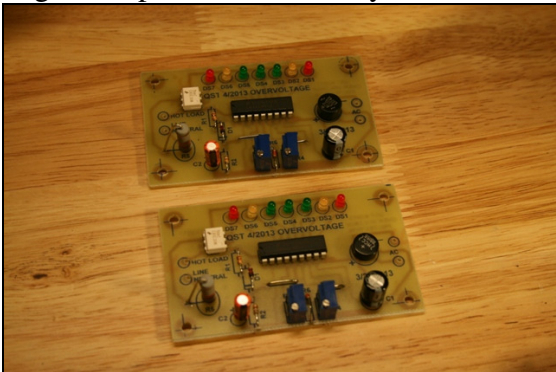
When the last LED conducts, its output is shown to an optocoupler with an on board triac. When this triac actuates it places a 12K 2W resistor between hot and ground on the load side of the GFI. This results in a small difference in current flow between the hot and neutral legs of the service, unbalancing the load, and tripping the GFI. As the transformer powering the device is fed from the load side of the GFI it is also protected. Departing from the original design, on boards 2 & 3 the LEDs have been mounted on the board surface and they will be encapsulated in clear cover Hoffman enclosures which I think will look pretty cool compared to the suggested 'edge out holes in series' mounting style in a project box, plus, it will be easier to machine the enclosure and I am by nature a lazy man.

Initially I build the circuit on a breadboard; however a nice circuit board for this project is available from Far Circuits for less than five bucks, and makes for a really neat build. You can construct this entire project for about \$30 in parts. I know some of you likely have most everything you need already in the junk box. Projects are nice, however as this unit provides both GFI and over voltage protection, and also gives one a bargraph display of voltage levels it is actually useful! Very handy for Field Day or other generator powered outings, or just general use. I was surprised to see that the prototype unit has tripped off twice here at the house already

during spikes. I am also surprised at how often the line voltage varies from the nominal 120V.

All phases of these construction efforts have been well documented in the QST article for anyone wanting to build one of these and to supplement this I have a file with detailed descriptions, many photos of the construction process, and parts suppliers that I'll be happy to send to those interested. Already in the can is such a file (Powerpoint Presentation) for the Homebrew Variac constructed on the (very) cheap, and again, if anyone wants a copy of that project I'll be glad it to send it to you.

And so, with my task of spreading self-aggrandizing propaganda of dubious value far and wide complete, I rise from my below grade vault, sniffing at the foreign smells (fresh air), and squinting hard at the strange, bright, hydrogen fueled fireball in the clear azure sky. The Cat, now satiated with an enormous breakfast, waddles up and curls up a lip feigning interest at my arrival in the surface world. I know in his heart he is mocking me, because Penny is heard walking down the hallway and he's immediately off to greener pastures - can't say as I blame him.



Another day is upon us, but now; what fresh hell is this?! Work?! That inflexible interrupter of my higher order tasks once again enslaves me! Alas I must don the armor of my trade and lock horns with it. Six hundred miles to ride and doing one more show- ohhhh no! (Apologies to Lynyrd Skynyrd.)

It is a cruel fate for the creative mind, but alas it does feed the cat.

Be well my friends, and BUILD something.

73, Fred KA3IRJ (fred@ksecorp.com)

Wow. Not only a project builder, farmer and ham radio operator but an excellent story teller as well! You may have inspired me to dust off the soldering iron Fred!

(Update as of June 26th)

PS: I used my Overvoltage Protection Circuit during Field Day and it tripped every time the generator was restarted under load. When a genset starts, the governor lags behind the RPM rise and causes the overvoltage, not to mention a frequency surge. At home here, with two units under test on separate electrical services, I recorded a total of (11) trips (over 130 VAC) since they were put on line in April. The power here is reliable and clean in terms of harmonics and sags, however it's absolutely frightening how much the service voltage varies on the high end. The prototype unit is now in permanent service upstream of my main power supply.

For Sale:

Icom IC-756 PRO III for sale. Radio is in excellent condition, used in a non-smoking environment.

Asking \$1900 or reasonable offer

contact Frank KB2AYS at 609-312-9392

(de Bob, ERL)

Asus netbook win 7 home 150.00

Motorola zoom, droid 4.1 200.00

LDG Autotuner at200pc 75.00

Contact Ted Katz N3OWM, 856-663-5962

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous solid braid perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET

SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS

CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT WU3I@ARRL.NET

Ham Camp 2013

How Would You Like to Spend a Weekend in the Country and Use an 1100 ft MSL Antenna? If So Come on Up to Our Place for Ham Camp High Atop Areffe Knob.

What: Weekend Camp Out on Our Farm outside Sunbury, PA

When: August 17-18, 2013 (Come Up Friday Night if You Want)

Who's Invited: Any Member of PMMRC & CSTUG in Good Standing w/Immediate Family

Where: 118 Magnolia Lane Sunbury, PA 17801

Talk In: Our Local Repeater @ 145.290 - No PL Needed

You are Invited to Share a Low-Key Weekend of Camping, Good Fellowship, and Fun with a Little Radio Thrown in for Good Measure. Surrounded by 100+ mile Views in Virtually Every Direction You Will be Amazed at the Difference a Little Elevation Makes. We Have 7 Acres of Lawn to Camp on, or Choose a Spot in the Christmas Tree Area or Woods. This is a Self Directed, Take Care of Your Own Self Type Event, So Be Prepared to Camp Out, Play Radio, Relax, and Have a Good Time. Come for an afternoon or the whole weekend.

RAIN OR SHINE

We Will Provide:

- An Unimproved Campsite, or RV Parking
- Water
- Sanitary Facilities
- Catered Lunch, and Dinner Saturday, and Breakfast Sunday Morning
- 110 VAC Power for Radios (Leave the AC Unit Behind Please)
- Wireless Internet Access

Please See my QRZ Page for Pictures/Coordinates <http://qrz.com/db/KA3IRJ>

What You Have to Do:

- **RSVP to fred@ksecorp.com (We need a Head Count for the Food)**
- **Show Up**

Pets Welcome, Bring a Frizbee and/or a Baseball Glove, And Don't Do Nuthin' Stupid.

**Bill, W3AOK sent these
pictures of Dayton –**



**Jim N5MIJ, Jim NS3K, Tony N2ATB &
Christoph DF9WM**



A big turnout as usual!

Thanks Bill!

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K



**The cats are taking over Blurb H.Q. It's the first
step in their evil scheme of world domination**

August at Phil-Mont

4 Sun-KC2PMW
11 Sun -W3STW
18 Sun -KB3IV
25 Sun -N3OWM

*Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.*

Also in August...

2nd First Income Tax - Congress enacts
first income tax in 1861.
8th Dollar Day - The US dollar was
created in 1786.
12th IBM PC Announced in 1981.
19th National Aviation Day
20th National Radio Day

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First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

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